

Message Text

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FOR IOP/M

THE BULLETIN (CONSERVATIVE) APRIL 23 EDITORIAL COMMENTS ON SECRETARY KISSINGER'S FORTHCOMING MIDDLE EAST VISIT, AS FOLLOWS: "WITH DR. KISSINGER PREPARING HIS LUGGAGE FOR YET ANOTHER MIDDLE EAST TRIP, THE WORLD WILL BE WONDERING WHETHER HE CAN BRING ABOUT THE DISENGAGEMENT ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS, AS HE WAS ABLE TO DO ON THE SINAI FRONT. THE GRIM TRUTH OF IT ALL LIES IN THE FACT THAT IF THE SYRIANS HAD ENTERED THE OCTOBER WAR WITH 1800 TANKS, WHATEVER THE LOSSES THAT MAY HAVE BEEN SUFFERED, THESE HAVE CERTAINLY BEEN REPLACED BY RUSSIA, IN QUANTITY AND QUALITY' SOME OBSERVERS HAVE CALLED THE OCTOBER WAR AS WAR BY PROXY, WITH THE LARGEST NUMBER EVER OF HEAVY ARMOUR TAKING THE FIELD OF BATTLE.

IF THERE HAVE BEEN NO PITCHED BATTLES ON THE GOLAN FRONT, SINCE OCTOBER, IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE AREA IS NOT BRISTLING WITH ARMOUR, READY TO BE FLUNG INTO BATTLE. IT IS IN THIS ATMOSPHERE OF GREAT TENSION THAT DR. KISSINGER IS FLYING BACK TO THE MIDDLE EAST, AND WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THE RUSSIANS ARE BACKING THE SYRIANS TO THE HILT.

HE WILL GO TO ISRAEL THAT IS PASSING UNFORTUNATELY THROUGH A POLITICAL CRISIS, BUT WHICH SHOULD BE OVERCOME; YET THE GRIM TRUTH IS THAT THE TASK TO ATTAIN DISENGAGEMENT IS CERTAINLY VERY DIFFICULT. THE ISRAELIS ARE READY TO AGREE TO A DISENGAGEMENT -- WITH THE LIST OF PRISONERS OF WAR IN THEIR HANDS, THE ISRAELIS

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COULD PRESS FOR MORE; BUT THEY HAVE SO FAR AVOIDED TAKING A STAND

THAT WILL PROVE INTRACTABLE LATER.

WHETHER DR. KISSINGER WILL BE ABLE TO MELLOW THE SYRIANS, IS A
MATTER OF CONJECTURE. HIS EXACTING TASK WILL MEAN THAT THE MIRACLE,
EVEN IF A TEMPORARY ONE, ACHIEVED IN THE SINAI HAS TO BE EXTENDED
TO THE SYRIAN FRONT. IF DR. KISSINGER CAN BRING ABOUT A BREAK IN
THE PRESENT TENSE ATMOSPHERE, IT COULD MEAN ANOTHER BLOW TO RUSSIA.
BUT DR. KISSINGER MUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO ASK MORE
FROM THE ISRAELIS THAN FROM THE SYRIANS. IT IS ONLY IF EQUITABLE
MEASURES ARE SUGGESTED THAT THE PEACE, OR AT FIRST THE CASE FIRE
CAN COME INTO EFFECT."

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